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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

President To Post Assembly Speaker Elsewhere

EA2712213294 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 27 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following problems in the country's institutions due to the election of Jean Minani as speaker of the assembly, a rejection of the Unity and National Progress Party parliamentary group of the election, the party's withdrawal of its members from the national assembly, and the government for so long as Jean Minani remains a member of the assembly's office [made up of the speaker, deputy speaker, and two secretaries], the head of state announced that a solution to the question had been found, but he did not disclose its nature. In the TV program Focus today, the head of state told our TV colleagues, Innocent Muhozi, who was presenting the program, and Celsius Nsengiyunva, that Jean Minani would be given another job. You can watch the program on TV after the French TV news.

Departure of Speaker Confirmed

EA2812200894 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned that the subject of discussion today was the resignation of Jean Minani from the office of the National Assembly and the modalities of the resignation. The president of the Republic reportedly reaffirmed that the speaker of the National Assembly would resign from the office of the National Assembly to take up other functions and that the modalities of the implementation of the resignation would be studied by the parties concerned—namely, the Front for Democracy in Burundi [Frodebu] and Union for National Progress [Uprona], which comprise the National Assembly, as from tomorrow.

Zaire

Opposition Warns of 'Algerian Syndrome' in Zaire

BR2812161494 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 28 Dec 94 p 5

[Report co-signed "RDG": "Zairian Bishops Lashing Out Fiercely at Mobutu"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels—At the end of their general meeting last Monday, the Zairian bishops issued a statement in which they fiercely lash out at President Mobutu Sese Seko. Whoever gives the slightest suspicion that he or she does not agree with the regime, is running serious risks, the Church leaders state. [passage omitted]

Memorandum

It is not the first time that the Zairian bishops have made such sharp statements, although it was some time ago.

On 6 March 1990 they handed over to the president a damning memorandum on 25 years of Mobutu policy. During the preparations for and throughout the Sovereign National Conference, they also repeatedly criticized the regime.

In Brussels, Jacques Matanda ma Mboyo, opponent and deputy chairman of the commission which was charged with investigating the murders and violations of human rights on behalf of the National Conference, addressed an open letter to all Belgian politicians. In a 144-page document he warns of an "Algerian syndrome" in Zaire, referring to the phenomenon of political rulers who, after their defeat in general elections, simply cancel the election results, thus causing a bloody civil war in their country.

Matanda accuses the Belgian christian-democratic and socialist government partners of wanting "to restore and perpetuate Mobutu's bloodthirsty dictatorship". He describes such an attitude as dishonoring the memory of "Bwana Kitoko", the late King Baudouin.

Kengo Denounces Mismanagement in State Companies

AB2812225394 Paris AFP in French 1929 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 28 Dec (AFP)—Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo severely rebuked senior officials of state companies today. He said that several of them had behaved like "true predators." At an evaluation meeting with chairpersons and managing directors of state companies, the prime minister said that "many state companies were facing a situation of inevitable bankruptcy and should simply go into voluntary liquidation." He told them: "The cause of the failure remains mismanagement—and there is no need for me to prove it, you know that."

In a straight-forward statement broadcast by the national radio, the prime minister denounced "many state-appointed officials who mistake their own wallets for the coffers of their enterprises," or who give priority to "political influence peddling and have abandoned the exigences of good management."

"Stringent measures," he said, "will be taken within the institutions and we will put an end to all these practices, which border on anarchy."

Mr. Kengo disclosed that the government would establish a serious internal control system for public enterprises, and would draw up a list of those "which are to be restructured, privatized, or liquidated."

He also stressed that state officials must choose between either politics or the management of their enterprises. "You are either a politician or a manager, but not both at the same time," he asserted.

ANC Ministers 'Hamstrung' by Civil Service*MB2812132294 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English
20 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Anthony Johnson and Barry Streek]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bloemfontein—Angry government ministers yesterday slammed "unsympathetic" white male civil servants in key positions who they claimed are hampering their efforts to govern.

The ministers' frustration emerged from confidential reports discussed at the ANC conference here. In the reports ministers said they were being "hamstrung" and even "stymied" by an unsympathetic civil service dominated in key positions by white men.

They expressed their anger as demands from a number of regions grew yesterday for a review of the constitutional job guarantee for civil servants.

The ministers stressed the urgent need to speed up affirmative action to transform the "too pale and too male" character of the public service.

Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Dr Pallo Jordan complained in his report, circulated to ANC delegates (but not the media) here, that the culture of his department was "that of Afrikaner males, some with strong commitments to the past".

He said: "It is virtually impossible to develop relationships of trust between myself and most senior staff," adding that on taking over the ministry he found only one black—a messenger.

"The guarantees we have accepted for incumbent civil servants remain an obstacle to any serious restructuring and the dearth of qualified blacks to fill upcoming posts means that for the foreseeable future we will have to make do with what we have got," Dr Jordan said.

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Dr Zola Skweyiya, noted in his report to the conference that a public service dominated, especially at higher levels, by white men "is one of the greatest challenges we face in transforming the public service to a representative organisation that will reflect the multi-cultural picture of South Africa".

He said Public Service Commission [PSC] would have to establish new criteria for hiring promotion, training and grading as well as create a completely new classification system that would ensure that blacks were accorded priority attention.

The PSC would also have to embark upon "intensive recruiting drives focusing on candidates from disadvantaged communities".

Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise complained that there were still "significant numbers of former SADF [South

African Defense Force] personnel who are finding it difficult and do not want to change to the new democratic society".

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said "the extent of grievances around personnel matters is a legacy of apartheid injustices with black members of the SAP [South African Police] having been severely disadvantaged."

One of the burning issues at the ANC conference is the groundswell of demands that the ANC force a review of job security for civil servants negotiated at the multi-party constitutional talks in the run-up to the April election.

A resolution submitted by the Western Cape calling for "the constitution to be amended to abolish job guarantees" captures the mood of delegates from a number of regions.

However, ANC negotiators—including secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa—have acknowledged that it would be difficult for the ANC to wriggle out of the sunset clause provision.

Three provincial ANC leaders—Mr Chris Nissen of the Western Cape, Mr Tokyo Sexwale of Gauteng and Mr Patrick Lekota of the [Orange] Free State—have also complained in their provincial reports to the conference that job guarantees were hampering the needed transformation of provincial bureaucracies.

And two ANC women deputy ministers—Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ms Thoko Msane and Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Mrs Winnie Mandela complained of the way their ministers were treating them.

Ms Msane said the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekirk, had agreed to the principle of having regular meetings with her before and after cabinet meetings but this was "not yet a satisfactory practice". She also said the principle of consultation and information exchange between Dr van Niekirk, the department and herself before any major announcements and decisions had been agreed but had not happened.

Mrs Mandela said there had been problems in the relationship of the advisory group of experts and the minister, Dr Ben Ngubane. She said the advisory group had been "severely critical of unilateral action on the part of the minister, who has in turn been unwilling to take criticism".

ANC To Broaden Racial Base for Local Elections*MB2812195094 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English
19 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Anthony Johnson and Barry Streek]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC is to launch a major drive in the New Year to broaden its racial base.

This follows the shock disclosure in a confidential ANC document that 97 percent of the 12.2 million people who voted for it in the April 27 election were African with only 2 percent of its support coming from coloured voters, 0.75 percent from Indians and a minuscule 0.25 percent from whites.

The new campaign to make the ANC more representative in preparation for next year's local government elections was announced over the weekend by ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela.

It coincided with disclosures of serious organisational problems in the ANC and "massive debts", understood to total R70m [rands].

In his opening address to 3,000 delegates and scores of international observers at the ANC's national conference here on the campus of the University of the Free State, Mr Mandela frankly acknowledged that the election exposed a number of "serious weaknesses" in the ANC's organisation, tactics and appeal to minority groups.

Of special significance was "the extent to which particularly poorer sections of the coloured and Indian communities found solace in the racist mobilisation of the National Party and voted in a manner that demonstrated fear of their counterparts among Africans".

The ANC said in a confidential document, circulated to delegates but not distributed to the press: "We need to examine the effect of the composition of the ANC support on our policies, our organisational capacity, our coherence and our unity.

"In this, we need to examine not only the 'ethnic' composition of the ANC, but our class, gender, religious and cultural composition.

"Our failure to have minorities participating in the structures of the movement in a substantial way has limited our capacity to unite a broad section of the South African population behind our programme," the document said.

ANC secretary-general Mr Cyril Ramaphosa told a press conference the organisation would launch an action plan early next year to improve its appeal among minority groups.

He said this was a task that had to involve the entire movement.

ANC national chairman Mr Thabo Mbeki told the congress that since the organisation was fighting for a non-racial and non-sexist society it should be non-racial and non-sexist in its composition and character.

Turning to the problems facing the ANC, Mr Mandela told delegates the financial state of the ANC was a matter of serious concern.

The organisation would have to eliminate wastage and lack of financial discipline at all levels.

"Seldom before have we experienced such dislocation as in the few months after the election.

"We were disorganised and behaved in a manner that could have endangered the revolution."

This was underlined in the confidential ANC document, which said it was essential for the ANC to introduce proper management of its financial and other assets. Stricter control mechanisms would have to be introduced and the ANC had to "eradicate mismanagement and gross negligence in the handling of our meagre resources".

It also said ANC leadership's failure to take action against those who had breached the principles of the organisation contributed "to a general mood of ill-discipline" which had not only proved embarrassing for the organisation but had also hampered the proper functioning of its structures.

Mr Ramaphosa told delegates: "Discipline has been a problem in our organisation and we all know it."

Although ANC leaders openly admitted the organisation faced serious problems they were also unanimous that its sweeping election victory demonstrated that it was the dominant political force in South Africa.

Mr Ramaphosa said: "This is a very happy conference. There are no areas of dispute. We admit we have our weaknesses and problems. We have to grapple with these."

IFP Branch Urges Party To Quit Government

MB2912123894 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1205 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paulpietersburg Dec 29 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party's [IFP] branch in Paulpietersburg in North-Western KwaZulu/Natal is calling for arms and wants the IFP to withdraw from the government of national unity.

A statement issued by the branch on Thursday [29 December] said that at a recent meeting in the town it decided to call on the party's leaders for arms to take up the struggle "for real freedom" because others were ignoring calls for peace.

It said it was clear that the IFP was not wanted in the government of national unity and that the government was going to collapse. In addition, the government was interfering in the IFP-led government of KwaZulu/Natal.

FF Allows Members To Accept Ambassadorships

MB2912115394 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 22 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Freedom Front [FF] can accept appointments as ambassadors without being in conflict with party policy. This was announced

yesterday by FF Senator Major General Tienie Groenewald, who was asked to comment on reports that Mr. Tom Langley will be named as South Africa's ambassador to Portugal by President Nelson Mandela.

Gen. Groenewald said he believed FF members would accept ambassadorial posts if the posts are offered to them. It is not against party policy, and the FF has, in fact, nominated some of its members for ambassadorial posts.

Mr. Langley was formerly the Conservative Party's foreign affairs spokesman, but joined the FF too late to be considered for public office.

Number of Illegal Immigrants Increasing

MB2912084194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0802 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pietersburg Dec 29 SAPA—The number of people illegally crossing borders into South Africa from neighbouring countries was increasing, a Department of Home Affairs spokesman said on Wednesday [29 December].

Mrs M Boshoff said more than 12,000 illegal immigrants were deported to their countries of origin from July to November. A figure for December's repatriations had yet to be established but a large increase was expected.

The department's figures do not include repatriations by the Defence Force or people who voluntarily returned to Mozambique under the supervision of the United Nations. Thousands of refugees who fled the civil war in Mozambique settled in Gazankulu during the past decade.

The largest groups of repatriated illegal aliens were to Zimbabwe (7,000) and Mozambique (3,000). Mrs Boshoff said 3,000 Zimbabweans had been sent back across the border in September alone.

During the four months, 32 illegal immigrants from Ghana, 35 from Botswana, four Malawians and one Pakistani were deported.

Drought and famine in southern Africa were believed to be the reasons for the large number of illegal aliens.

More Companies Said Adopting Affirmative Action

MB2912095194 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 22 Dec 94 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Affirmative action is no longer mere talk, but is being implemented all over the country. Many more companies now have such programs in place, compared with a few years ago.

According to management consultants FSA Contact [expansion unknown], 84 percent of the 86 companies that participated in a survey on affirmative action are already implementing such programs, compared with 74 percent last year and 58 percent in 1992.

FSA Contact's Harriet Webster says the 86 public and private organizations that participated in the survey are involved in all sectors of the economy and range from small to medium-sized undertakings that employ less than 250 to as many as 5,000 workers.

FSA Contact's special survey on salary and wage movements and labor trends indicates that 57 percent of the participants have started a formal affirmative action program and 27 percent of them have introduced an information program. Only 16 percent of the companies have not implemented either of the two programs.

"Compared with last year, the figures show an orchestrated attempt by companies to correct the imbalances in our society," Webster said.

The majority of the participants (85 percent) said the success of their affirmative action programs is measured by the number of employees appointed from among the less-advantaged groups or by the number of employees from such groups being promoted to more senior levels. Almost two-thirds (65 percent) said they are appointing a larger number of qualified nonwhite employees.

Only 7 percent of the participants in the survey indicated that their appointments are made according to a race-group quota. Other methods used include education programs and the development of specific positions in an organization.

Webster said there has been a significant increase in the number of black and Asian senior and mid-level managers appointed in the past few years. The percentage of black employees at the senior management level has increased from 3.5 percent in 1993 to 18 percent this year, while the number of Asian employees has risen from 4.5 percent to 14 percent. This has been accompanied by a drop in the percentage of white employees, from 91 percent last year to 68 percent this year.

About half (49 percent) of all mid-level management posts are held by black and Asian employees (25 and 24 percent, respectively), compared with 31 percent (15 percent black and 16 percent Asian) last year. The number of whites in these positions has dropped from 69 percent to 51 percent.

Inflation Rate Increases to 9.9 Percent

MB2812112994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1056 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Dec 28 SAPA—The official inflation rate increased slightly in November, but remained below the 10 per cent mark, figures released on Wednesday [28 December] by the Central Statistical Service (CSS) showed.

November's annualised inflation rate increased to 9.9 per cent—0.1 per cent higher than the corresponding rate of 9.8 per cent for October 1994.

The increase was in accordance with economists' predictions of a rising official inflation rate, measured by the change in consumer prices (consumer price index), expected to reach double digits within the near future.

The monthly increase from October 1994 to November 1994 was slightly higher at 0.2 per cent due partly to increases in price indices for housing and transport.

In contrast to these increases, the food inflation rate decreased in November compared to October's figure due mainly to a 17.1 per cent decrease in the price index for vegetables.

Increases occurred in the price indices for meat (0.1 per cent), fish and other seafood (1.0 per cent), milk, cheese and eggs (0.3 per cent), fats and oils (0.8 per cent), fruit and nuts (4.0 per cent), sugar (0.5 per cent) and coffee, tea and cocoa (5.2 per cent).

The monthly rate of increase in the price index for all items excluding food was 0.8 per cent.

Figures showed the highest inflation rate occurred in Bloemfontein and the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area (10.8 per cent), while the Vaal Triangle registered the lowest rate (8.3 per cent).

Commenting on Wednesday's figures, senior communications manager of the Consumer Council, Daan Kruger, said the decrease in the inflation rate of food was a welcome relief.

"Obviously we will never condone any increase, but November's overall increase was probably a bit lower than expected and could indicate a levelling out of price hikes," Kruger said.

"We're looking forward to a stable inflation rate—and possibly even a downward trend in 1995," he added.

In a recent quarterly economic report, Edey, Rogers & Co analyst Edward Osborn said fresh foods continued to dominate the inflation calculations.

"The tremendous yawning of the fresh foods inflation rate, which was triggered by the drought of 1992, will continue to have a rogue influence on overall inflation next year," Osborn said.

Gold Production To Drop 31 Metric Tons

MB2712153494 Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English 27 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Michael Urquhart]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SA [South Africa] gold production for 1994 will be 31 tons down from the previous year, costing the country R1.3bn [1.3 billion rands] in foreign exchange, Chamber of Mines figures show. But total mineral exports should be boosted by improved sales of platinum and coal. Together, the three minerals account for 43 percent of SA's total exports.

Chamber figures show that gold production for the 11 months to November 1994 was 534.9 tons compared with 565.8 tons for the same period last year. If production for December was equivalent to last year's, it would mean total gold production of 589 tons for 1994.

Chamber of Mines economist Roger Baxter said at the weekend that the main cause of the fall in gold production had been election-related disruptions, which had hammered gold output in June.

Total ore milled for the first three quarters of 1994 had amounted to 77.8 million tons, 5.3 percent down on the same period the preview year.

A higher gold price had also seen average grades dip from 5.53g/t to 5.44g/t over the first nine months. A higher gold price tended to trigger a fall in grade as mines' pay limits were increased and it became profitable to mine lower grade ore.

Baxter said gold output was likely to recover next year, although he did not expect it to reach its 1993 level. He said he was expecting a level of about 600 tons for 1995. Output was unlikely to increase much beyond this for a number of years as no major new projects were being developed, he said.

Exports would receive a major boost next year from the coal sector, which should sell more coal at higher prices in 1995, Baxter said. SA coal exports for 1994 would be about 53-million tons, compared with 51.3-million tons for the preview year. Next year coal exports should rise to between 55-million and 56-million tons, but Baxter said they could be even higher. He also expected a rise in coal prices of at least 15 percent, as contract prices next year were likely to be settled at much higher levels in line with rapidly increasing spot prices.

South African Press Review for 28 Dec

MB2812130794

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Farmers' Move North—"It is ironic at a time when literally tens of thousands of migrants are coming illegally to South Africa from countries beyond the Limpopo, that the president of the Free State Agricultural Union should be advising farmers to go north," says a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 28 December. "While no one would deny farmers the right to try their luck elsewhere in Africa," to trek from home because of the drought "seems short-sighted. Instead, our farming community, with State help, should be planning for the lean years—and enjoying the fat ones when the rains come."

BUSINESS DAY

'Dithering' Over Removal of Exchange Controls—"Expectations that economic growth will lead to a surge in new company listings on the Johannesburg Stock

Exchange [JSE] next year are encouraging," notes a page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 28 December. The JSE has "not been able to play its role as a supplier of new capital fully for many years. This has not been the fault of the exchange, but is due to the constraints and controls under which it and the country's corporate sector are forced to operate. Chief among those constraints are the exchange controls and the dual currency system that continue to restrict South Africa's growth potential." BUSINESS DAY believes "blame for any delays in ownership of corporate assets shifting to black hands must, then, be placed firmly at the doors of government and the Reserve Bank, both of whom are still dithering over the removal of restrictions."

Law 'Not Worth Much'—A second editorial on the same page says that when "truculent prison warders walked off the job this week, effectively setting criminals free, it was another indication that the law is not worth much in our society." The problem facing South Africa is "how to transform the society from one where flouting the law is a clever, and even noble, tactic, into one where responsibility for fellow citizens is paramount."

THE CITIZEN

ANC To Rule 'On Its Own'—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 23 December in its page 6 editorial notes that the ANC is "to seek a new constitution that will cater for 'ordinary democratic majority rule' without enforced power sharing." Justice Minister Dullah Omar says the ANC wants a new constitution, "not a rewrite of the interim constitution." THE CITIZEN believes the ANC "will get 'ordinary democratic majority rule' written into the new constitution. And the NP [National Party] will have to accept that the ANC will then rule the country on its own."

ANC Leadership 'More Militant'—"If ever a man deserved the accolades of his fellow countrymen for the wisdom he has shown during the transition to Black majority rule, it is President Mandela," declares the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 22 December. "From within the party there are voices that say he is, in fact, a strong leader and nobody should misjudge his tolerance in public for weakness. On the other hand, there are times when it seems that the government itself is rudderless, that ministers all want to do their own thing, that the country is under-governed rather than governed at all." The paper wonders whether there is a successor to Mandela who will "carry on his mission of reconciliation and nation building." The paper finds it "disturbing news" from the ANC conference in Bloemfontein that "the more militant wing of the ANC has advanced rapidly into leadership positions." THE CITIZEN believes the ANC is likely to "push

ahead with its own agenda more vigorously than it has done in the months since the election."

South African Press Review for 29 Dec
MB2912131094

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 29 December in a page 10 editorial comments on the situation in the country's prisons where, "in the last week alone, we have seen the murder of a 14-year-old by fellow juvenile inmates. We have had breakouts during industrial action by disaffected warders in KwaZulu/Natal. We have learnt that prisoners in the Cape went on the rampage, demanding a supply of dagga [marijuana], and were teargassed into order." The country's correctional policy "needs a radical overhaul—one which cannot be achieved without significant adjustments in the departments of justice, welfare and health." Nongovernmental organizations and prisoners' rights groups "have a vital part to play in the planning process."

BUSINESS DAY

Government Moulding of Public Service—One of the government's major tasks in the New Year will be moulding the public service into "an efficient and more representative organisation," says the page 4 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 29 December. So far, "standards are holding up reasonably well in the public service as a whole, but Minister Zola Skweyiya must be concerned about the likely snowballing effect of ill-discipline in some areas of his administration." His party must also "be well aware that dissatisfaction with the public service will inevitably reflect on its own ability to govern."

CAPE TIMES

ANC Should Not Rule Out Voluntary Coalition Government—The ANC's statement of intent to drop the interim provision for compulsory coalition government when the new constitution is drafted "is hardly unexpected," according to a page 6 editorial in Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 22 December. "It was clearly understood" that a government of national unity was to be a "transitional arrangement, designed to tide the country through a delicate and potentially dangerous period of adjustment." CAPE TIMES says the possibility of a voluntary coalition succeeding the present compulsory arrangement "should not be ruled out by the ANC." "The coalition government has already proved its worth, securing an orderly transfer of power from the apartheid state to a non-racial order. But the trick will be to keep the ship of state on an even keel when compulsory coalition falls away."

Angola

UN's Beye on Progress of Cease-Fire, Talks

LD2912095794 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] UN Representative Alioune Blondin Beye still looks like he has a lot of travelling to do. He wants to facilitate the speedy application of the agreement signed in Lusaka on 20 November, as UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] continues to report violations of the cease-fire. For the moment, he is going from capital to capital, keeping the heads of state in the region informed. He thinks it is still too early to hope for a meeting between Dos Santos and Savimbi, as he told Ghislaine Dupont:

[Begin Blondin Beye recording] A meeting with President Chiluba comes after the meeting I had with President Mobutu on 23 December. I met President dos Santos on 24 December. Believe me, these meetings do not have one single aim; they aim to create a healthy political and military context in Angola. Because, as you know, in the next few weeks, or at least by 8 February at the latest, the Security Council will have to (re)examine what is new in the Angola dossier. It must find that a favorable political and military context is possible so that we can move on to the second phase of the UN action.

In the political context, of course, one of the major tests is a meeting between President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi—a meeting we had hoped would take place in Lusaka on the occasion of the signing. If it did not take place on the occasion of the signing, we are trying to encourage it by creating the right conditions. It would be premature, however, to say that it will take place in Lusaka, that it will take place on such and such a date, in such and such a place, at such and such a moment. [end recording]

UN Official Reports 131 Observers in Country

MB2912085094 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] UN observers continue to arrive in Angola. At this stage, there are 131 of them in six Angolan provinces. (Isaura Aidara), deputy spokesman for the UN Angola Verification Mission-2, said another contingent of Blue Berets from Guinea-Bissau is expected soon. [passage omitted]

Cuito Cuanavale Situation Called 'Very Serious'

MB2912074394 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Cuando Cubango Province's Cuito Cuanavale District is one of war. The Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel has learned from sources close to Commander Vituzi of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] that matters came to a head when an Antonov-26 aircraft delivered Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] special forces and large quantities of war materiel to Cuito Cuanavale on 27 December.

On direct orders from the FAA General Staff, government forces attacked National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]-held positions 27 km south of Cuito Cuanavale yesterday morning. The clashes began at 0730 [0530 GMT] and culminated in attacks on the areas of (Saminguigui), Nangombe, and Nancova. The FAA forces also razed three more villages. Although no assessment has been made, it is believed there were heavy human and material losses, because the clashes lasted all day.

Yesterday afternoon, Jamba's governor general for defense and security affairs described the military situation in Cuito Cuanavale as very serious. He urged the United Nations to send UN Angola Verification Mission-2 [Unavem-2] observers to Cuito Cuanavale District today so that the FAA offensive can be halted. If the offensive continues, it will lead to a real battle, for which only the Angolan Government can be blamed.

The situation in Lunda Norte Province is also one of war. The FAA forces have been attacking UNITA positions in the face of negligence by international observers. Between 20 and 26 December, the FAA forces occupied the areas of Lucapa, Cambulo, and Chitotolo, which had all been under UNITA control. Official sources say the FAA attacks on those areas cost the lives of more than 150 defenseless civilians.

UNITA is the victim of UN laziness and is waiting for explanations as to why Unavem-2 observers do not act when FAA forces violate the cease-fire agreement. The sources also warned that, in the future, UNITA will retaliate until the voice of reason is heeded.

UNITA Said Deploying Troops on Namibian Border

MB2912084794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0828 GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Windhoek Dec 29 SAPA—The Angolan rebel movement UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] was reported to have deployed reinforcements on the Angolan-Namibian border on Wednesday [29 December] after an incident west of Rundu on Tuesday in which an Angolan was killed and another seriously wounded.

Residents in the area told the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation they feared possible clashes between UNITA and the Namibian Defence Force after seeing UNITA troop movements on the Angolan side of the border.

Rundu police said Tuesday's shooting occurred at Mayara, 140 km west of Rundu, when a Namibian soldier saw two Angolans on the Namibian side of the Kavango River.

Ignoring an order to hand themselves over, the two men jumped into a canoe and started rowing across the river. They ignored warning shots before coming under fire from the soldier, police said.

Lesotho**Police Mount Operation in Maseru Township***MB2912055894 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lesotho Mounted Police have mounted an operation which has lasted for the whole night and is continuing this morning at the Seapoint location in Maseru. Sounds of gunfire were heard throughout the night and this morning, and there is a heavy presence of the police along the road leading to the Seapoint location, off the airport road. Details of the operation will become clearer in our subsequent news bulletins.

Six Killed by Police in Shoot-Out*MB2912122194 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The police have reported that they have shot and killed six men in a fierce gun battle which lasted for the whole night between the police and the men at Seapoint, in Maseru, last night.

The report said the gun battle started when the men rained bullets at the police, who were on the trail of a vehicle seized from its owner by armed men at (Sephutaneng) in Maseru recently. The police said they found the stolen vehicle at the house where the six men were and two AK-47 rifles, which the men used to attack the police.

The report further said one man is being questioned by the police in connection with the theft of the vehicle.

Mozambique**Dhlakama To Seek Appointment of Renamo Governors***MB2812153494 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama soon will submit a formal request to President Joaquim Chissano to appoint Renamo members to the posts of provincial governors. Afonso Dhlakama is cited by the MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AGENCY as having said that he is going to submit this request in writing. Dhlakama says he hopes President Chissano will accept his request, stressing that this will be very good for the president himself.

Dhlakama To 'Inconvenience' Government*MB2812190794 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama is cited by the MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AGENCY [AIM] as saying he will continue to inconvenience the government until the next Assembly of the Republic session in March. Afonso Dhlakama said: I am ready to annoy the government. If I remain quiet, it means that the government will be

able to do whatever it likes because there will be no parliamentary activity for several months.

AIM cited an unidentified government source as saying that Dhlakama's statement was not unexpected but noted, however, that it does not conform to the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation advocated by Renamo.

Afonso Dhlakama also said he intends to discuss the status of opposition leader with President Chissano.

Renamo Names Members of Standing Commission*MB2812130894 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Vicente Ululu, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] secretary general, says his party has already indicated the names of the party officials who will be part of the Assembly of the Republic Standing Commission. Afonso Dhlakama's party has also supplied the names of the officials who will be part of the Ad Hoc Commission to review and update parliament bylaws.

The Renamo members who will be part of the Assembly of the Republic Standing Commission include Vicente Ululu, Raul Domingos, Albino Faife, Manuel Fonseca, and Jose Leopoldo.

Renamo Secretary General Vicente Ululu also disclosed that his party has nominated Raul Domingos to the post of deputy chairman of the Assembly of Republic.

Opposition Parties Form United Salvation Front*MB2912091094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 27 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] NOTICIAS reports today that seven opposition political parties have decided to form an extra-parliamentary political force called the United Salvation Front. The new political force's aim is to convey its opinions and to influence the Assembly of the Republic on social, political, and economic issues. The United Salvation Front will include the following parties: the Social, Liberal and Democratic Party; the Democratic Renewal Party; the Labor Party; the Democratic Congress Party; the Mozambican National Union; the Mozambique People's Progress Party; and the Mozambique Independent Party.

UNHCR Releases Repatriation Figures*MB2912115294 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, believes 1.5 million Mozambican refugees had returned to the country by the end of November of this year. Quoting a UNHCR report, the MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AGENCY [AIM] reports that about 100,000 Mozambican refugees are still living in neighboring countries and are likely to repatriated next year.

Inflation Rises 48.9 Percent From June*MB2712113394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 27 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting Portugal's LUSA news agency, NOTICIAS reports today that Mozambique's

inflation rate rose significantly between June and October, increasing 48.9 percent. Inflation was due to difficulties in importing consumer goods in that period because of Bank of Mozambique-imposed loan restrictions. The Mozambican Government had forecast an accumulated inflation rate of about 30 percent for this year—10 points less than the 1993 inflation rate.

Namibia

Electoral Commission Declares No Voter Fraud

MB2812183994 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English
21 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following an investigation into alleged irregularities, the Electoral Commission says it found there was an "acceptable explanation" for the fact that there were more votes counted than registered voters in four constituencies in the North, and that this had not been caused by irregularities.

According to the Deputy Director of Elections, George Simaata, the investigation was an administrative procedure and the Directorate was therefore mandated to conduct such an investigation.

In a statement on November 12, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Judge President Johan Strydom, had expressed his dissatisfaction about the number of votes received in four constituencies namely Engela, Ogongo, Okatjali and Oshikango.

After this the DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance] decided to take legal action to investigate the irregularities and their impact on the election outcome. On completion of the investigation by the Electoral Directorate into the alleged irregularities, the Electoral Commission announced in a press release that no proof of irregularities had been found.

According to the press release it was found that

1. Every voter was required to prove his/her identity and to produce his/her registration card before being permitted to vote.
2. No reports were received indicating that any voter attempted to vote more than once.
3. Seemingly, significant numbers of voters considered regions as a voting unit and not a constituency. Consequently many voters in a region voted at different polling stations in constituencies of that region, not necessarily the constituency where the voter registered. Only constituencies in other regions were considered—by some of officials as qualifying a voter to vote by tendered vote.
4. Voters in the above constituencies had difficulties in understanding the tendered voting system. Some of them had placed their tendered vote, by accident, without an envelope, into an ordinary ballot box not meant for tendered votes.

5. Such acts may have lead to the higher number of votes cast in a particular constituency, naturally at the expense of another constituency.

Military Takes Possession of Indian Helicopters

MB2812175494 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English
21 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Lucienne Fild]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Namibian Defence Force [NDF] officially took charge of the four helicopters, bought from India for N\$19.6 million [Namibian dollars], during a ceremony at Eros Airport yesterday morning [20 December].

The helicopters arrived in Windhoek on Saturday afternoon on board a Russian cargo plane.

The four helicopters were purchased from the Indian company, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

According to the company's Head of Marketing, Ashok Baweja, the helicopters were based on the French-designed Alouette helicopter, but had undergone numerous modifications and improvements enabling it to operate in Indian conditions.

Baweja said the helicopters were ideal for operating in hot and dry conditions.

All components needed for the helicopters were manufactured in India.

Of the four helicopters bought by the NDF, two are known as the Chetak and the other two are referred to as the Cheetah.

The Chetak is HAL's multi-role, seven-seater helicopter (Alouette 111).

The Chetak is safe and well suited for high altitudes over sea, tropical and desert conditions.

It can be used effectively in a variety of civil and military roles which include communications, rescue, aerial survey and combat.

According to Baweja, the Chetak helicopter was named after one of the King's horses and translated into English means "trusted steed".

The Cheetah helicopter is smaller in design and simpler in concept compared to the Chetak.

The Cheetah holds the all category altitude record of 12,442 metres and is one of the best suited helicopters for high altitude missions.

It is ideal for observation, surveillance, logistics support, rescue operations and agricultural spraying.

The four helicopters will be used by the NDF's Air Wing for:—the protection of the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone;

- search and rescue operations both at land and at sea;
- emergency evacuations;
- protecting Namibia's wildlife;
- providing airborne protection;
- troop lifting and transporting material;
- border patrols;
- combatting crime;
- rendering assistance in cases of natural disasters;
- assist civil authorities when required.

At present the NDF does not have qualified pilots, technicians nor engineers to fly the helicopters or maintain them.

However, India is providing one Chief Engineer, five technicians and two pilots for at least six months to train Namibian pilots on the helicopters.

Handing over the helicopters to the NDF was the Chairman of HAL, RN Sharma. He pointed out that his company had so far manufactured more than 3,000 aircraft and 650 helicopters.

Sharma said HAL would stand by its commitment that the helicopters would fulfill their task.

Accepting the helicopters was Defence Minister Peter Mweshihange, who assured the public that the helicopters had not been bought "due to a perceived threat".

"Namibia is at peace with all its neighbours and we are simply enhancing our defence capability."

The four helicopters bring to 10 the number of aircraft owned by the NDF's Air Wing.

Six Cessna 02 A planes were donated to the Air Wing six months ago by the American government.

The planes are interesting looking 1968 model aircraft, similar to those used by the Americans during the Vietnam war. Two American advisors have assisted in training four pilots, six co-pilots and seven mechanics, all of them Namibian.

Swaziland

Employers' Federation Says 1994 'Worst' Year

MB2912112494 Mbabane THE TIMES OF
SWAZILAND in English 29 Dec 94 pp 1, 28

[Report by Gordon Mbuli]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The outgoing year has been one of the worst for the Federation of Swaziland Employers (FSE) since the 1963 strikes.

The executive director, Mr Musa Hlophe in an interview yesterday said of 1994: "It has been a horrible one in every respect."

The employers said without necessarily wishing to sound alarmist, "one does not find so much satisfaction when reflecting on how 1994 had in store for us." The federation, in their newsletter has cited the most traumatising industrial relations expenses this year.

"From the beginning of the year, signs were already on the horizon, signalling tough times ahead. Therefore, it came as no surprise when the SFTU [Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions] attempted to plunge the whole country to a national strike campaign.

"It is now history that, the two-day strike of 21st and 22nd February cost the sugar industry millions of Emalangeni in the form of lost production. Then there were those anti-whites sentiments, which seem to be with us even as we report. Obviously these sentiments, have nothing to do with whites being the cause of Swaziland's social political and economic ills.

"They are simply being used as a scapegoat! These claims may also be a reflection of a trade union movement that has lost its main agenda of promoting the collective economic interests of its members. The reality of this unhappy situation can only be traced to the poor economic performance of the country compounded by unfulfilled political aspirations of the populace particularly after what was expected to have been the first democratic elections after April 12th, 1973!

"Of course, the most worrying thing of all is the government, which is very conspicuous by its silence on this matter. The trade union movement, particularly those affiliated to the SFTU, seem to have got government paralysed over the issue of race."

The federation said all of a sudden, the union is turning Swaziland into an apartheid State, and government is saying nothing.

"In our view, it is the duty of the State to speak or act against anyone inciting racial hatred. The law in this country forbids racial discrimination by anybody, and for any reason. For us, it would appear, the only best way to address Swaziland's social-economic and political ills, is by opening up the system and make it as participatory as possible."

The employers say there is a great need to move towards a social dialogue in which all the major stakeholders can freely participate in shaping the desired future of Swaziland.

"But, in the meantime, let us stop using race as an issue, or the minorities in our society as scapegoats for our social ills."

On a positive note, the employers said this year was only good in that there was less retrenchments than the past two years put together.

"Of course, this may not be attributed to improved economic performance, but to improved economic methods of organisational restructuring."

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Liberia

Unomil, ECOMOG Say Cease-Fire Holding

AB2912113094 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 29 Dec 94

[By James Dorbor]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Monrovia, Dec 29 (AFP)—A new ceasefire among Liberia's armed factions appeared to be holding several hours after it took effect, foreign observers said Thursday [29 December], amid hopes of a permanent end to five years of brutal civil war.

Representatives of the UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and the African multinational peacekeeping force ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] told AFP they had received no reports of any violations.

"I am optimistic that lasting peace will come to Liberia," the outgoing deputy chief of UNOMIL, General Haq Azziz, said Thursday. "The fighters are tired of the war. The faction leaders are also tired. So I am quite confident that we will see this process go through."

The new UN special envoy to Liberia, Anthony Nyaki, arrived here Wednesday. Nyaki, who replaces Trevor Gordon-Somers of Jamaica, is the former Tanzanian permanent representative to the United Nations. Gordon-Somers, who was appointed in November 1992, has already left here for New York.

Leaders of all the rival factions in the west African country, together with a representative of the civilian administration in Monrovia, signed a peace pact in Accra, Ghana, on December 21 to end the anarchic political and tribal conflict which has claimed more than 150,000 lives.

Since then, faction leaders have called on their fighters to respect the ceasefire, which is the first phase of a transition period due to end with elections in November 1995. A new council of state, or collective presidency, is scheduled to be set up within 14 days. [passage omitted]

Ulimo Secretary-General Isaac Quawah warned that "serious action will be taken against any fighter who violates the ceasefire agreement" and declared that "the war in Liberia is over."

The ministry of information here said in a statement Thursday that Taylor had also called on his NPFL fighters "to obey the ceasefire." [passage omitted]

ECOWAS first deployed its Nigerian-led ECOMOG troops in August 1990. They protect the coastal capital and the port of Buchanan, but the interior of the country has been riven by factional strife.

Since the war broke out, over 80 percent of Liberia's 2.5 million inhabitants have fled their homes, moving either to Monrovia or into exile in neighbouring Guinea or Ivory Coast.

Faction Leaders Urging Members To Cease Fire

AB2912083094 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Liberia a cease-fire was due to come into effect from midnight local time. Yesterday on Network Africa we heard from deputy minister of information in the interim Liberian administration talking from the United States. This is the view of the minister himself, Joe Mulbah, talking to us yesterday from Monrovia.

[Begin Mulbah recording] Well, we don't think the signing of the Akosombo Accord will lead to a blood-bath. We have had this war dragging on for the past five years, so it is about time for us to have peace, and in fact, most of the factional leaders have been on local radio today passing on messages to their combatants to cease fire and adhere to the peace process. [end recording]

Further on Call To Cease Fire

AB2912100294 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900
GMT 29 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cease-fire agreed to by the warring factions went into effect midnight last night with leaders of the various warring factions calling on all of their fighters to strictly abide by the agreement. In separate interviews with the faction leaders yesterday, a Ministry of Information release quotes them as saying the war in Liberia is over and it is time to put the past behind and begin to heal the wounds of the nation.

Lieutenant General J. Hezekiah Bowen of the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] said the undue suffering of the Liberian people must definitely come to an end beginning last night. He said this giant step into a more hopeful future for Liberia should continue. He urged all AFL personnel to observe the cease-fire.

General Roosevelt Johnson of Ulimo [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]-J also expressed similar sentiments and appealed to his fighters to observe the cease-fire and bring lasting peace to their own people. He said the time of factionalizing the Liberian nation is over. For his part, NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] leader Charles Taylor expressed thanks and appreciation to ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], the United Nations, and OAU for their tireless efforts to bring peace to Liberia. Mr. Taylor said he believed that it is only through peace that the welfare of the people of Liberia can be maximized. He urged all his fighters to obey the cease-fire.

Although the leader of Ulimo-K, General Alhaji G. V. Koromah, could not be reached, a senior liaison officer based in Monrovia said their fighters have been advised

to observe the cease-fire in keeping with the peace agreement just signed in Accra.

LNTG Minister on Weaknesses of Peace Accord

*AB2812120094 London BBC World Service in English
0600 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Rick Wells]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the cease-fire due to come into effect in Liberia at midnight tonight, it seems there has been a growing voice of dissent against the peace accord upon which it is based. Although this is the first of more than 10 peace accords in Liberia to be signed by all the warring factions, uncertainties have emerged this week as to whether peace can be maintained in a country which has been submerged in war for five years. One of the people showing concern is the minister of information in the current interim civilian administration. His name is Milton Teah Jayjay, and speaking on the line the United States, he told me why he was not alone in feeling this way about the new peace accord.

[Begin recording] [Jayjay] This accord will be a recipe for additional bloodbath, but bloodbath that will be done in a systematic and legal way by the warring factions. If they did [word indistinct] this country without ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] emphasizing disarmament as opposed to governing, we are in for a very long wait because you're going to push a lot of people going in the bush to take arms themselves. If you listen to what people have been saying over the last few days the mayor of Monrovia has rejected this agreement, the head of the defense force of Lofa has rejected this agreement, some of the clergymen, some of the most moral, powerful leaders in the country have equally rejected the agreement.

[Wells] But this is rather odd because at the same time the United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has come out and said that he is delighted that the latest accord has been signed, congratulating Ghana's president, and there seems to be a great deal of optimism surrounding this latest agreement. But you are saying it doesn't stand the chance of getting off the ground?

[Jayjay] Now you will find out that all of the optimism will just die in a relatively short time, and the reason is you have to honestly (?know where) Secretary General Butrus-Ghali (?is coming from). Now Butrus-Ghali has been very helpful in trying to bring some sort of solution, some form of sanity to the Liberian people, but he is not the one who is directly on the ground. We are the ones on the ground; we are the ones who listen to the sounds of the gun everyday, he is not the one. What he has done is to turn over political power to people who have been (?toying) with their guns; that's precisely where we are.

[Wells] The men with the guns, the armed factions have, according to what we read, actually signed an accord which says that from tonight there will be a cease-fire

and in two weeks' time they are going to set up a new transitional authority. Do you think it is not worth the purpose right now?

[Jayjay] If you look at the Liberian military conflict, I think we've signed close to about 50 agreements now. Now if out of 50 agreements all of them have been violated by these warring factions, what even makes you to believe that this one is going to be respected. They have been part of those agreements in the past. The Lofa Defense Force has rejected the agreement. They claim that the Ghanaian Government put them on extreme pressure to sign the agreement even when they were disagreeing with those factors in the agreement. Now under that kind of circumstance you are not going to have peace in the country. What you have now is that Mr. Taylor is rejoicing, Mr. Koromah is rejoicing, only because they will bring in proteges and confidants who will exercise their military agenda using their military agenda using their political offices, and that is exactly where we are.

[Wells] So what, in your view, should have been the main thrust of this new peace accord then?

[Jayjay] What would have made the peace accord work would be to tie the two important interests of the Liberian people together—the interests of the unarmed civilians and the interests of the warlords. They are interested in taking political power while the civilians are interested in having a demilitarized society. The LNTG, the incoming Liberian National Transitional Government, will be responsible for disarmament in conjunction with ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] and Unomil [UN Observer Mission in Liberia]. Now, what that means is that you are placing authority in the hands of the very warlords who should be disarmed themselves. They are being the referee and then the player at the same time. You are the goalkeeper, you are the number five, and you are the player. You do everything for yourself. (?How can you) expect everybody to believe that that will work? [end recording]

Labor Minister Urges Support for Peace Process

*AB2912111094 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English 0900
GMT 29 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor Minister Thomas Woewiyu has advised against the use of institutions to bring about chaos and anarchy in the country and further prolong the suffering of the Liberian people. He made specific reference to the recent injunction imposed on the maritime front by the Concerned Women of Liberia, an action which was upheld by the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Due to the injunction on the government's major source of revenue, he said civil servants could not be paid for the Christmas season. He called on those who support this action to desist because it has the potential to incite riots that could destabilize the safe haven of Monrovia. LINA [Liberian National News Agency] quotes the labor

minister as saying the peace process has been put back on course and it is incumbent on all Liberians to do everything to end the war.

Sierra Leone

Rebel Attack Reported in Kenema; Official Reacts
*AB2712200694 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 27 Dec 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program hosted by Kwabena Mensah]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] It is not only in Bo where there has been trouble. Details are now coming out of a rebel attack on the eastern town of Kenema. Victor Silva has been speaking to people in Kenema and he telexed this report from Freetown:

Citizens of Kenema awoke on Christmas day to the sound of heavy firing as rebels attempted to secure a foothold in the town. It appears they used town entry points, bypassing troops stationed with and on the outskirts of the town. A call off in Kenema told me this afternoon that had it not been for the stout defense put up by government forces, he would have hated to predict the fate that might have befallen the town. He told me that government troops based in the area had to contend with wave upon wave of attacking rebels who, it would appear, were bent on taking not only the town but also the headquarters of the government's Fourth Battalion.

In the attack a prominent Kenema lawyer, Mr. (P.P. Kebi), was killed. Sources close to the judiciary say that he may have been targeted because he was in line to become the next director of public prosecutions.

In the mopping up operations that are now going on in Kenema, one source told me a number of rebels had been caught and many were either killed or wounded.

Well, until now, the authorities in Sierra Leone haven't said much about the recent spate in rebel attacks. But tonight, on the line to Freetown, Robin White has been speaking to Captain Abdulrahman Kamara, a spokesman for the NPRC [National Provisional ruling Council] government, and asked him how he saw the situation.

[Begin recording] [Kamara] Well, it is worrying and distressing but the truth is that they don't come out as a unified force. These are occasional forages they are making and we believe these are measures only to get people know that they are still around but they don't come in very large numbers. We have contained them, as a matter of fact.

[White] But just the fact that rebels can hit two of your largest towns, Bo and Kenema, must be extremely alarming.

[Kamara] Well, it is alarming, especially now that we are talking peace.

[White] Does that mean that the peace talk is now over?

[Kamara] No it isn't. No one is saying that, Robin.

[White] So, you are prepared to negotiate?

[Kamara] We are, as they are too. In fact, we captured a number of these rebels and they have indicated willingness to continue the peace talks. As a matter of fact, a few days ago, somebody came on and he said he was very much interested in contacting the UN envoy who is here on a peace mission.

[White] But is this man who you captured and is here a senior rebel or just a rang and file person?

[Kamara] Well, one is claiming to be a commando and he has his following.

[White] And what about Foday Sankoh?

[Kamara] Well, they say... [pauses] one of them did say, as a matter of fact, that he is alive and he wants peace.

[White] So, who is ordering these attacks on Bo and Kenema, do you think?

[Kamara] Well, no one would say exactly who is responsible for that.

[White] Now, we have got reports over an attack on a prison, a little way out of Freetown, and that the prisoners were freed and ran off with the rebels. Is that true?

[Kamara] Well, it seems altogether it's the Masanta Prison in (Magboraka) and some of them were recaptured and those were common criminals and they were taken back. Those who went away, we said, were common criminals but again the situation is under control. [end recording]

Clashes in Bo Leave 26 Dead

AB2812164794 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 28 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, Dec 28 (AFP)—Some 26 Sierra Leone rebels have been killed in clashes with an angry mob of civilians in the regional town of Bo, according to reports reaching the capital Wednesday [28 December]. Civilians wielding machetes, and others armed with bows and arrows, confronted the rebels late Tuesday in the New London area of Bo, 170 kilometres (105 miles) east of Freetown.

According to local journalists, two boys were also killed when rebels fired into the crowd. Separately, two government soldiers were reported killed in the area Tuesday in an rebel ambush.

Bo civilians were Wednesday organising house-to-house searches for suspected rebels while shops are closed and a private radio station has been off the air for the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the death toll among displaced persons who drowned in the nearby Sewa River as they fled a rebel

attack on a camp near Bo over the weekend is now estimated at 100 by witnesses.

In Freetown, the military government's official spokesman Captain Abdulrahman Kamara admitted Wednesday that the series of attacks over the Christmas period was "worrying," but repeated his earlier statement that they had been contained.

Further on Kenema, Bo Clashes

*AB2812200494 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 28 Dec 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is no let-up in the latest upsurge of attacks by RUF [Revolutionary United Front] in Sierra Leone. In spite of recent contacts with the government about a possible cease-fire, the rebels began a new spate of raids over Christmas. First, Kenema in the east was hit, then yesterday Bo, in the south of the country. Now there's been more trouble at Kenema. From Freetown Victor Silva has just telexed this report:

According to military sources, a group of rebels launched an attack on Kenema town at about three o'clock this afternoon. The rebels were beaten off by government troops who have now been fully reinforced and are located at strategic points all over the town. A Kenema resident told me that the town had been largely quiet all night. This morning businesses started to open and street hawkers started selling their wares when heavy firing was heard not far from the town center.

Reports say that a group of rebels were trying to recapture their main support weapon, an anti-aircraft gun, which had been seized earlier by government troops. Military sources in Kenema could not give accurate casualties, but indicated that the rebels have so far been thwarted in all their efforts to make significant gains.

Meanwhile, reports from Bo say that government troops engaged the rebel force up until six o'clock last night before chasing them from the outskirts of the town. One top military official told me this afternoon that yesterday's attack on Bo was two-pronged, with rebels advancing along the main Bo-Kenema Highway and into an area of the town known as New London. During the

attack rebels destroyed two houses on the outskirts of Bo as well part of the police barracks.

A government source told me that civilians in Bo had displayed exemplary fortitude, helping the security forces to hunt down and kill 15 rebels.

Authorities Release 219 Suspected Rebels

*AB2312163394 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 23 Dec 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is some Christmas cheer for more than 200 prisoners in Sierra Leone. They are suspected rebels or rebel sympathizers and they have been released after a review of their cases. It all comes as Sierra Leone awaits the outcome of recent contacts between the government and the rebels. From Freetown, Victor Sylver faxed this report:

The authorities have announced the release of 219 people who have been held in detention on suspicion of rebel activities or collaboration. Briefing the press this afternoon, the secretary of state for social services and health, Colonel Akim Gibril, said the decision was in line with the government's policy of improving its human rights record. Col. Gibril dismissed speculation that the releases were influenced by the ongoing dialogue with the rebels. He revealed that there were now only 47 detainees still being held in the Central Prison in Freetown. He said their release would not be in the interest of national security.

The attorney general, Victor Claude Campbell, explained that the cases against the 219 detainees released had been reviewed over the past six months and that it had been decided that there was not enough evidence against them to keep them in prison. Asked if the released people suspected of rebel activity this time would not create further problems for the government, security officers present at the press briefing said all has been taken account of. The government is in full control and prepared for any eventuality, one official said.

Among the 219 people released were a number of foreign nationals who had been picked up by the security forces when they raided two boats that were believed to be heading for Sierra Leone from Liberia and Guinea. At the time the authorities here described all of them as a destabilization machine.

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